



New England Convenience Store  
A s s o c i a t i o n

The Honorable Eileen Daily  
Co-Chair  
Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee  
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Patricia Widlitz  
Co-Chair  
Finance Revenue & Bonding Committee  
Room 3700, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

March 7, 2011

**To: Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee**

**RE: An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations on Revenue – SB 1007**

**Dear Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz,**

The New England Convenience Store Association (NECSA) opposes any increase in gasoline and diesel fuel related taxes in the State of Connecticut.

My name is Cathy Barber and I serve as NECSA's current President and Chair of the Connecticut Legislative Chapter. Also, I am the CT Sales Manager for a family owned gasoline distributor, L.E. Belcher, Inc, operating stores and supplying retailers throughout the State.

Our 400 Association members operating stores here in Connecticut strongly oppose increasing fuel related taxes.

The total tax on gasoline in CT is already the highest in New England. Based on today's average wholesale price, tax on a gallon of CT gasoline exceeds the tax charged on a gallon of Massachusetts gas by over 26 cents per gallon.

As the only State in New England charging a Gross Receipts Tax, a percentage of the wholesale cost, our State already realizes large revenue increases as the price rises. Based on an average wholesale price on last Friday, Connecticut collects 23 cents per gallon from the Gross Receipts Tax alone. This is in addition to the State Excise Tax on gasoline of 25 cents per gallon.

The tax on CT Diesel fuel, 39.60 cents per gallon, now exceeds that in MA by over 16 cents per gallon.

Connecticut is already known as the "Pass-Through State" because of its high gasoline taxes. Our residents already travel to bordering states to purchase gasoline and diesel fuel while commercial truckers and tourists routinely avoid fueling up in Connecticut.

Just as competitive retail fuel prices increase sales, competitive fuel taxes support higher overall sales of both fuel and related products throughout a State.

Convenience stores sell 80% of the fuel sold in the entire country. We bear an enormous tax collection burden due to the product selection we offer. Increasing fuel taxes in CT will put an unfair tax burden on our industry while sparing others from sharing in the responsibility of increasing tax revenues.

Increasing fuel taxes will severely damage the ability of independent convenience store operators, small family dealers and chains alike, to continue operating in Connecticut.

We ask you to refuse any increases in Connecticut's already burdensome fuel taxes.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Barber

Resident of Wethersfield, CT